

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.     **(CANCELED)** A permanent antimicrobial melamine resin, comprising:  
melamine; and  
a first antimicrobial agent;  
wherein the first antimicrobial agent is an isothiazolone based compound.
  
2.     **(CANCELED)** The permanent antimicrobial melamine resin claimed in  
claim 1, wherein the isothiazolone based compound is selected from the group  
consisting of 1,2-benzisothiazolin-3-one, N-butyl-1,2-benzisothiazolin-3-one, 2-octyl-  
isothiazolone, 4,5-dichloro-2-N-octyl-3 (2H)-isothiazolone, methyl-3(2H)-isothiazolone,  
and chloro-2-methyl- 3(2H)-isothiazolone.
  
3.     (Canceled)
  
4.     **(CANCELED)** The permanent antimicrobial melamine resin according to  
claim 2, further comprising:  
a second antimicrobial agent selected from the group consisting of triclosan,  
ortho phenyl phenol, diiodomethyl-p-tolylsulfone, zinc pyrithiones, sodium pyrithiones,  
azoles such as propiconazoles, poly (hexamethylene biguanide) hydrochloride, 3,4,4'-  
trichlorocarbanilide, barium monohydrate and silver, copper or zinc in zeolite or  
amorphous glass powder.
  
5.     (Canceled)
  
6.     **(CANCELED)** The permanent antimicrobial melamine resin as claimed in  
claim 4, wherein the second antimicrobial agent is triclosan.
  
- Claims 7-8.   (Canceled)

9. **(CANCELED)** The permanent antimicrobial melamine resin of claim 1, wherein the weight percent addition of the first antimicrobial agent is about 0.1 % to about 5 % of the weight of the melamine resin.

10. (Canceled)

11. **(CANCELED)** The permanent antimicrobial melamine resin of claim 1 wherein the weight percent addition of the first antimicrobial agent is in the range of about 0.3 % to about 1.0 % of the weight of the melamine resin.

12. (Previously Presented) A decorative laminate having durable antimicrobial properties, comprising:

an overlay sheet impregnated with a melamine resin including a dispersion;

a first antimicrobial agent in said dispersion, said antimicrobial agent being isothiazolone based;

a printed paper sheet impregnated with a melamine formaldehyde; and

a high density core fiberboard impregnated with a phenolic resin or a melamine resin.

13. (Previously Presented) The decorative laminate of claim 12, further comprising:

a second antimicrobial agent.

14. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** The decorative laminate of claim 12 wherein the second antimicrobial agent is one of: triclosan; ortho phenyl phenol; diiodomethyl p-tolylsulfone; zinc pyrithione; sodium pyrithione; an azole; poly (hexamethylene biguanide) hydrochloride; 3,4, 4'-trichlorocarbaniide; ~~barium monohydrate~~; silver, copper or zinc in zeolite; or silver, copper or zinc in amorphous glass powder.

15. (Previously Presented) The decorative laminate of claim 12, further comprising:

a second high density core fiberboard impregnated with a phenolic resin or a melamine resin.

16. (Previously Presented) The decorative laminate of claim 12 wherein said laminate is cured in a press at a pressure in the range of about 1000 psi to about 1500 psi and a temperature in the range of about 170° to about 210° C.

17. (Previously Presented) The decorative laminate of claim 16 wherein said laminate is cured at a temperature of about 190° C.

18. (Previously Presented) The decorative laminate as claimed in claim 12 wherein the weight percent addition of the antimicrobial agent is about 0.1% to about 5 % of the weight of the melamine resin.

19. (Previously Presented) The decorative laminate as claimed in claim 18 wherein the weight percent addition of the antimicrobial agent is about 0.3 to about 1.0% of the weight of the melamine resin.

20. (Previously Presented) A laminate article, comprising:  
an overlay sheet impregnated with a melamine resin including a dispersion;  
an isothiazolone-based first antimicrobial agent in said dispersion;  
a decorative paper sheet impregnated with a melamine formaldehyde; and  
a substrate.

21. (Previously Presented) The laminate article of claim 20 wherein the article is one of a countertop, a tabletop, a desktop, or a flooring article.

22. (Previously Presented) The laminate article of claim 20, further comprising:  
a second antimicrobial agent.

23. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** The laminate article of claim 20 wherein the second antimicrobial agent is one of: triclosan; ortho phenyl phenol; diiodomethyl p-tolylsulfone; zinc pyrithione; sodium pyrithione; an azole; poly (hexamethylene biguanide) hydrochloride; 3,4, 4'-trichlorocarbanilide; ~~barium monohydrate~~; silver, copper or zinc in zeolite; or silver, copper or zinc in amorphous glass powder.

24. (Previously Presented) The laminate article of claim 20, further comprising:  
a second high density core fiberboard impregnated with a phenolic resin or a melamine resin.

25. (Previously Presented) The laminate article of claim 20 wherein said laminate is cured in a press at a pressure in the range of about 1000 psi to about 1500 psi and a temperature in the range of about 170° to about 210° C.

26. (Previously Presented) The laminate article of claim 25 wherein said laminate is cured at a temperature of about 190° C.

27. (Previously Presented) The laminate article as claimed in claim 20 wherein the weight percent addition of the antimicrobial agent is about 0.1% to about 5 % of the weight of the melamine resin.

28. (Previously Presented) The laminate article as claimed in claim 27 wherein the weight percent addition of the antimicrobial agent is about 0.3 to about 1.0% of the weight of the melamine resin.

29. **(CANCELED)** An antimicrobial molded melamine article, comprising:  
melamine resin; and  
an isothiazolone-based first antimicrobial agent substantially permanently  
incorporated in said melamine resin.

30. **(CANCELED)** The antimicrobial molded melamine article of claim 29  
wherein the first antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of: 1,2-  
benzisothiazolin-3-one; N-butyl-1,2-benzisothiazolin-3-one; 2-octyl-isothiazolone; 4,5-  
dichloro-2-N-octyl-3 (2H)-isothiazolone; methyl-3(2H)-isothiazolone; and chloro-2-  
methyl- 3(2H)-isothiazolone.

31. **(CANCELED)** The antimicrobial molded melamine article wherein the  
article is a dinnerware article, a picnicware article, a cup, a cutlery article, or a kitchen  
utensil.

32. **(CANCELED)** The antimicrobial molded melamine article of claim 29,  
further comprising:  
a second antimicrobial agent comprising one of triclosan; ortho phenyl phenol;  
diiodomethylp-tolylsulfone; zinc pyrithione; sodium pyrithione; an azole; poly  
(hexamethylene biguanide) hydrochloride; 3,4,4'-trichlorocarbanilide; barium  
monohydrate; silver, copper or zinc in zeolite; or silver, copper or zinc in amorphous  
glass powder.

33. **(CANCELED)** The antimicrobial molded melamine article as claimed in  
claim 32, wherein the second antimicrobial agent is triclosan.

34.     **(CANCELED)** The antimicrobial molded melamine article of claim 29, wherein the weight percent addition of the first antimicrobial agent is about 0.1 % to about 5 % of the weight of the melamine resin.

35.     **(CANCELED)** The antimicrobial molded melamine article of claim 29 wherein the weight percent addition of the first antimicrobial agent is in the range of about 0.3 % to about 1.0 % of the weight of the melamine resin.